

Don't
miss...



Join Our
Campaign

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"I'm back
on the right
path."

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Our
Thanksgiving
Needs

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**GRATEFUL
THROUGH IT ALL:
Josh is especially
thankful for YOU!**

Your compassion &
support change lives.



“

I was on the road to self-destruction, but now

I'M ON THE RIGHT PATH.

”



Josh was a shy, self-conscious young man who longed to fit in. “I had social anxiety. But when I had a couple drinks, I felt like everybody liked me more,” he says. “I started drinking as a social outlet at 18, but it snowballed.”

For nearly 20 years, he was a functioning addict, working and paying his bills. But, eventually, his drinking spiraled out of control. Then, one day, he had a dramatic wake-up call. “I had to have a drink before work to stop the shakes. I’d never done that before,” he says. “It was a big red flag that I was at a point of no return.”

Josh called his boss and told her he needed help. Upon her recommendation, he came to our Addiction Stabilization Center and detoxed under the supervision of a physician.

When he was physically ready, he entered our Parker House Aftercare Program, where Bible studies, chapel services and Christian counseling strengthened his faith and helped him process his pain. **“I reconnected with God and Jesus and got back into reading my Bible daily. I grew a lot spiritually,”** he says. “And no matter what I was going through, I could talk to the staff. They’re such compassionate people and have been very instrumental in my healing.”

Josh graduated from the program, has his own place and is training to be a Peer Advocate. He plans to spend his days ministering to those who struggle with addiction as he once did.

“The Mission has been a lifeline for me.”

“Now I see myself as a person of value who has something to contribute to the community,” he says.

As Josh celebrates this Thanksgiving, he feels incredibly thankful for your compassion and support – and how it’s given him a fresh start in life. “I was on the road to self-destruction. But the Mission provided a safe, stable environment and helped get me back on the right path. Now, I’m filled with hope.”



GIVING THANKS FOR ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

It might surprise you that in another year filled with uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community – or perhaps because of them – we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. **Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at Rescue Mission of Utica than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.**

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. Provided nourishing meals. Safe shelter. Life-restoring guidance. More than that, you've prayed for our ministry and guests. Encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that's something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you... today and every day. God bless!



Wendy L. Goetz

Wendy Goetz
Executive Director

2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors...

Over 30,000 Meals Needed by Thanksgiving

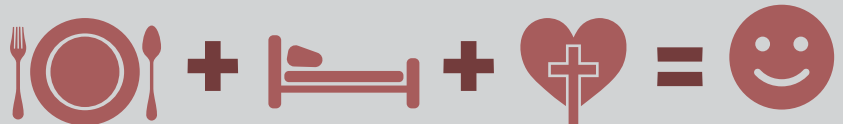
Many of our neighbors are still struggling... trying to get back on their feet... trying not to lose hope. Today, YOU can help them!

For just \$2.19, you can provide a nourishing meal for a hungry neighbor this Thanksgiving season. That meal opens the door to so much more...

- Safe, welcoming shelter
- Warm clothing, coats & shoes
- Counseling and case management to help them get back on their feet after another tough year
- A chance to experience God's love that changes lives



YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



Please – help us be ready to serve thousands of meals to our homeless and hurting neighbors during the busy holiday season!

Rush your 2021 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

🖥 Give online anytime at uticamission.org.

**READ JOSH'S STORY
TO LEARN MORE!**





Leave a Lasting Legacy

Did you know that more than half of U.S. adults do not have a will or other estate plan? Without a will, your estate will be divided according to the state in which you live – and the result may be very different from what you had wished.

The Mission can help make sure your wishes are followed, to care for those you leave behind and leave a lasting legacy for the causes close to your heart.

To learn more, please contact our Director of Development, Susan Woods, at

☎ (315) 735-1645, ext. 2115 or
✉ susan.woods@uticamission.org.

If you have already included the Mission in your will, please call so we can say, "Thank you!"

OUR THANKSGIVING NEEDS LIST

There's still so much to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season! Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these critically-needed items.

Turkeys	Pre-packaged pies
Potatoes	Rolls
Boxes of stuffing	Milk
Canned cranberry sauce	Mixed fruits & vegetables

Drop off your donations at **201 Rutger Street**.
Thanksgiving Dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!



The backbone of OUR MINISTRY...

Many people walk into the Mission with just the clothes on their backs. They're homeless, alienated from friends and family. They have nowhere else to turn.

A very special group of people who have great faith in our work have made a commitment to help them. It's a commitment that says, "I'll

be there for you... I want to make sure you get the help you need!"

These **Monthly Miracle Partners** provide a reliable, steady source of support that ensures we can care for our homeless and hungry neighbors all year long.

You're invited to become a member of this extraordinary group. When you join, you'll receive brief updates on how your support is helping save and transform the lives of the men and women who walk through our doors.